



Hon Leanne Donaldson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 23233/16

24 SEP 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2627-16 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 31 August 2016 regarding urgent action against Navua sedge.

Navua sedge is an insidious creeping weed threat to grazing land productivity. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has previously undertaken research trials to support Navua sedge control.

I met with Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple, and representatives of the Tablelands Regional Council and other local groups at Malanda on 29 June 2016. After this meeting, the department has committed to continue to provide the Tablelands Regional Council and local graziers with the latest advice and information material relating to Navua sedge control.

The department will also work with local stakeholders to develop a program to assist graziers battling this pest issue. The program will include:

- presentations by the department officers with expertise in pasture management and herbicide control at a field day with stakeholders
- facilitating partnerships with industry, government and community to collectively contribute funding to support further research and extension efforts if gaps are identified.

The continuation of funding arrangements between the Tableland Regional Council and the Department of Transport and Main Roads for control of roadside vegetation is a matter for the consideration of those parties. I have forwarded a copy of the petition to the Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply for his consideration.

However, I inform you that requests for high frequency herbicide applications on roadsides may exceed product label and permit use restrictions identified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Unless otherwise stated in a permit, the use of a herbicide product must be in accordance with instructions on its product label. In this case, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit (PER 80065) restricts the use of the herbicide SEMPRA along roadside verges to a maximum of three applications per year.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact of my office on telephone 07 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Donaldson', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Leanne Donaldson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Member for Bundaberg

The Honourable Mark Bailey, MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply
GPO Box 2644
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For your information and consideration